

“Engage the Albanian Diaspora to the Social and Economic Development of Albania”

EU Fellowship Scheme

#MakeHomeaBetterPlace

Objective:

- This EU Fellowship scheme aims to support the relevant institutions of the Government of Albania in the process of EU approximation, in the framework of capacity building support to the GoA, to facilitate the engagement of diaspora into institutional strengthening through the mobilization of highly skilled Diaspora professionals.

Activities:

- Actually 31 fellows are assisting with their expertise, in coordination with the State Minister of Diaspora and the Office of the Chief Negotiator, the following line Ministries:
 - Ministry of Justice
 - Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
 - Ministry of Finance and Economy
 - Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- The EU Fellowship Scheme is a critical part of the second pillar of the Diaspora Programme: Government of Albania facilitates the engagement of Diaspora into institutional strengthening and territorial development through skills and know-how transfer.

Target group:

- Professionals from the Albanian Diaspora, mainly from Italy, France and Belgium.
- Government Diaspora engagement institutions and those that are responsible for the implementation National Diaspora Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025.

How it works:

The fellowship scheme is designed and implemented with the purpose of mobilizing highly skilled diaspora professionals in Europe, but not only, to give their expertise to support the EU approximation process of Albania.

Concretely the fellows contribute to benchmarking where Albania stands vis-a-vis commitments in the global and regional frameworks (SDG, EU accession) including but not limited to Tables of Compliance, Legal Gap Analysis, Institutional Gap Analysis and drafting research documents on the applicability of the *acquis*, by providing technical and strategic inputs to the GoA on how to progress towards achieving the required commitments.

On this basis, until now, the Programme selected 33 fellows out of 35 foreseen in the Programme and a Team Leader. All of them are professionals with legal expertise in EU Law or non-legal professionals such as economists, experts in finance and taxation, environment, information technology and security issues, experts in the area of education, scientific research and project writing with work experience in EU standardization and EU regulatory



requirements, and with familiarity with the EU accession process of Albania as an EU candidate country.

The consultants inside this scheme are organized in three main horizontal categories:

Liaisons: perform institutional liaison functions between Albanian and EU institutions as relevant; **Sectorial researchers:** conduct sectorial research/studies according to the needs and priorities of the Albanian institutions followed by support to the transposition of respective EU legislation into domestic law; **Bench markers:** by benchmarking vis-à-vis regional and international agreements in which Albania is a party or aspires to be.

In addition, in collaboration with Albanian School of Public Administration, some of these fellows are transferring their experience and know-how to Albanian public civil servants through workshops and trainings based on the specific issues of each EU acquis chapters.

More concretely:

- A Call for Expression of Interest was addressed to Albanian Diaspora Members
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- A selection was made based on applications and interviews
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- Their engagement will last initially for 3 months, from March/April 2021 to May/June 2021, with the possibility of extension
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- They will produce mainly research documents, preparatory materials, Table of Compliances and transposed legal acts from EU law to Albanian law
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- They will conduct workshops and trainings for Albanian public servants in collaboration with ASPA mainly on these topics: fights against corruption; human rights; different types of taxation; migration; free movement of services and workers etc.